(b) if not the details of the purchases made during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) JCI has purchased 4,71,389 bales of raw jute from West Bengal upto 12.11.92 during the 1992-93 jute season.

Revival of NTC Mills

467. SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions was held unit-wise, in NTC mills between the management and the workers for their revival so far; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Managements of the Subsidiary Corporation of NTC have held discussions with the representatives of the Unions of respective mills, on the strategy to turn around the mills of NTC. These discussions included proposed modernisation schemes, beed for curtailment of uneconomic activities, retraining and redeployment of workers/ employees opting for retirement under Voluntary Retirement Scheme etc.

Closure of NTC Mills

468. SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down some NTC mills in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Government have approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC. The key elements of this strategy would be selective modernisation, financial and managerial restructuring and rationalisation of surplus workforce through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Voluntary Retirement Scheme will also be offered to the officers, staff and workers of such chronically sick mills, which have no possibility of viability and which may have to be closed down or merged with adjacent units to ensure viability.

Cotton Production and Demand

469. SHRI YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cotton likely to be produced during this year along with the carry over stock; and

(b) the expected demand of cotton this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) According to the Cotton Advisory Board which met on 9.10.92, the opening balance of cotton during the cotton season 1992-93 has been determined at 32.96 lakh bales and the quantity of cotton production has been determined in the range of 120-125 lakh bales. The mill and non-mill consumption has been estimated at 105 lakh bales and 8.00 lakh respectively.

Sick Textiles Mills

470. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the number of sick textiles mills in different States and since when these are sick?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): As per information furnished by Board